DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

President : The next item in the Agenda is financial business. I propose to call upon Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar to move for his supplementary demand.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar : (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 3,500 for expenditure to be incurred in connection with the research scheme on the root diseases of the cocoanut palm in South India financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

This Government prepared a very exhaustive scheme on the investigation of the root diseases of the cocoanut palm and submitted it to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research asking for funds to the extent of Rs. 92,880 spread over a period of five years. The scheme was accepted by the Council with certain modifications as suggested by an expert committee who examined it, and they have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 25,000 for this investigation as a firststep spread over a period of 3 years. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has provided for the salary and travelling allowance of the Plant Pathologist and his staff and also for contingent expenditure to the extent of Rs. 500. In accordance with this scheme our Government have to give the necessary laboratory accommodation to the Plant Pathologist with chemicals, appliances, etc., supply books and periodicals and further contingent expenditure to the extent of Rs. 500 for carrying on field experiments in affected gardens. It may be asked why this demand was not brought in the regular budget session of the Council. The reason is that this scheme was finally accepted only in last September and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has provided funds only very recently. It is therefore an expenditure not contemplated in the budget.

It is hardly necessary for me, Sir, to explain to this House the importance of the scheme as the results of the investigation are likely to afford lasting benefit to the people. And, more than 90 per cent. of the expenditure involved in the scheme is borne by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. I hope the House will be pleased to grant this demand.

Mr. J. John Kattakayam : സർ, ഇവിടെ കൃഷി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറാരംഭിച്ചിട്ട് വളരെക്കാലമായി എങ്കിലും അവരുടെ ഇതുവരെയുള്ള പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ട് ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് പറയത്തക്ക യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല.

President : I know the honourable member is capable of raising his voice further than he is able to do now.

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